ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A tonneau cover apparatus for attaching a flexible cover about a cargo box of a vehicle, preferably a pickup truck. The apparatus preferably includes, a support frame removably attached about the perimeter of a cargo box of the vehicle, an elongated end plate attached to an end of the flexible cover, end plate engagement members attached to the support frame and first and second locking members movably connected with the end plate. The end plate may be retained in the fixed stretching position by first and second locking members that preferably slide within a channel in the end plate. In one embodiment, an elongated member is secured to the respective locking members and to a turn knob such that force can be placed upon each respective locking member by turning the turn knob and pulling the elongated member so as to draw each of the respective locking members away from the first position toward the second position. In preferred embodiments the locking members are spring biased toward a locking position where the locking member engages a flange to prevent the end plate from moving out of the fixed stretching position.

P:\Client Files\Bob Freed\Agricover\027-01-US\031024 final appln for A20-027-01-US.doc

5

10

15